

IN THE CLAIMS

Please make the following amendments to the claims as noted.

Claim 1 (Previously Present) A method of decorating an article comprising:
preparing a transfer sheet by printing same with at least one heat-activated substance; and
transferring the heat-activated substance to the article by applying said transfer sheet to
the article to form an assembly and heating the assembly, wherein heating is performed by
quenching the assembly in a non-ferrous metal alloy bath, which is maintained at a nominal
temperature for the activation of said heat-activated substance.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to
Claim 1, wherein the bath includes an alloy comprising antimony, tin, bismuth and lead.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to
Claim 1, wherein the bath includes an alloy comprising bismuth, lead, tin and cadmium.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to
Claim 1, wherein the bath includes a non-ferrous metal alloy comprising bismuth.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of decorating an article according to Claim
1, wherein the article is enclosed in a film of Teflon Polytetraflouoroethylene on which an image
is printed using at least one heat-activated substance.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the article is enclosed in a sheet of backing paper on which an image is printed using at least one heat-activated substance.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the article is enclosed in a sheet of transfer paper on which an image is printed using at least one heat-activated substance.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the article is enclosed in a flocked material on which an image is printed using at least one heat-activated substance.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein said heat-activated substance is a sublimable ink.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-activated substance is an ink of the "thermofusible" type.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-activated substance is a gold leaf.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the transfer sheet forms a watertight envelope around the article to be decorated,

which is connected to a depression spring, during the step of transferring the heat-activated substance to the article.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the bath includes a non-ferrous metal alloy consisting of bismuth, lead, tin and cadmium (Bi 50%, Pb 25%, Sn 12.5%, Cd 12.5%), which has a melting point of around 70°C, maintained at a temperature of around 190°C.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the transfer sheet comprises a substrate of backing paper.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, wherein the heat-activated substance includes a heat-activated glue that comprises pigments or metal powders.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, comprising unwinding a transfer sheet in the form of a strip and bringing it into contact with a wire to be decorated upstream from the bath.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).